

REMARKS

General:

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. Claims 1-18 are cancelled. Claims 19-37 are new. New claims 19-37 consist of previous claims 1-18 rewritten as method claims instead of apparatus claims. (New claims 25 and 27, which are dependent from new claims 24 and 26, respectively, correspond to original claim 8 as dependent from claims 6 and 7, respectively.) No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Amendment after final rejection:

Claims 1-18 were rejected, and applicant's previous arguments were considered not to be persuasive, on the ground that the features of the present invention that are distinct from the prior art were all features of the operation, rather than the structure, of the claimed apparatus, and that the manner of operation of an apparatus does not provide a patentable distinction over the prior art. The present amendment, by presenting applicant's claims as method claims, presents the manner of operation in a form that is distinguishing over the prior art. The amendment is thus simply and directly responsive to the examiner's position. It is therefore believed that the examiner can reconsider his rejections in the light of the applicant's amendments without needing the sort of re-examination that would be inappropriate after final rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections:

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, and 11-18 were rejected as obvious over Takahashi et al., claims 1, 3-13, and 15-18 were rejected as obvious over Larson et al., and claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13, 14, and 18 were rejected as obvious over Faunce et al. All of these rejections appear to be on the basis that the references show apparatus that would be capable of being operated in accordance with the present invention. None of the references actually discloses or suggests a method in accordance with the present invention as now claimed. In particular, the references do not teach or suggest generating a magnetic field having a variable magnitude, and a direction that not only varies but moves with a variable angular velocity, which is an essential feature of the invention as now recited in independent claims 19 and 32.